

EXHIBIT 3: Letters of Support

CITY OF SAN BUENAVENTURA

August 24, 2004

CITY COUNCIL

Mr. Paul Moribito, Chairman
State Coastal Conservancy (SCC)
1330 Broadway, 11th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612



Brian Brennan, Mayor
Carl E. Morehouse, Deputy Mayor
Neal Andrews, Councilmember
Bill Fulton, Councilmember
James L. Monahan, Councilmember
Sandy E. Smith, Councilmember
Christy Weir, Councilmember

Re: Letter of support for Ventura Hillside Conservancy grant application

Dear Mr. Moribito:

I am writing you in enthusiastic support of Ventura Hillside Conservancy's application for a pre-acquisition planning grant in the amount of at least \$150,000 from your organization to be considered at SCC's September 15th meeting.

The Ventura Hillside Conservancy (VHC) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit land trust with the goal of preserving the hillsides, canyons and open space that contribute to the natural environment and unique character of the City of San Buenaventura and the surrounding region for the benefit of present and future generations.

The Ventura Hillside Conservancy has, from its inception, drawn immediate and strong support from members of the community, including the general public, media, public officials and major businesses.

VHC launched a highly successful educational outreach program, annual music festival, direct mail membership drive, speakers bureau and website. The inaugural issue of the VHC's bi-annual newsletter, Outlook, debuts next month.

It has partnered with other non-profits and public service agencies, including the SCC, California Native Plant Society, UCSB Bren School of Environmental Science and Management, City of Ventura Partners in Progress for a Beautiful Ventura and Certified Farmers Market for project studies, seminars, and special and public service events.

Approval of the SCC grant application would represent an important step forward for VHC as the funds from this grant will enable the organization to undertake the steps necessary to prepare for its first land acquisition and pave the way for future grants from SCC and other grant makers.

The grant monies would be used to fund five categories of activity plus cover the costs of a project manager to administer the grant: (1) gathering property information, including County GIS information, assessor's information,

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topographical data and aerial photos; (2) vegetation mapping and biological assessment; (3) site assessment information, including title reports, appraisals, and environmental due diligence for top priority properties; (4) acquisition planning, including legal counsel and capital campaign planning; (5) stewardship planning for public access and resource management.

I urge full support by the State Coastal Conservancy (SCC) of the Ventura Hillside Conservancy grant application this September. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Brian Brennan
Mayor

copy to: Ventura Hillside Conservancy, PO Box 1284, Ventura, CA 93002

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P.O. BOX 942849
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0035
(916) 319-2035
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DISTRICT OFFICES
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SANTA BARBARA, CA 93101
(805) 564-1649
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701 E. SANTA CLARA STREET, SUITE 25
VENTURA, CA 93001
(805) 648-9943
FAX (805) 648-9946

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August 23, 2004

Karr
Mr. Paul Moribito, Chairman
State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 11th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612



Dear Mr. Moribito:

I am writing in support of the Ventura Hillside Conservancy's (VHC) grant application to the State Coastal Conservancy. As you know, VHC is a nonprofit land trust that has the goal of preserving the hillsides, canyons and open space that contribute to the natural environment and unique character of the City of Buenaventura and the surrounding region for the benefit of present and future generations.

Since the organization was created eighteen months ago, it has been actively educating Ventura residents about the value of open space and aggressively recruiting members. It has conducted fundraisers and solicited financial support and grants from environmentally active organizations and artists and the Ventura community. And in a very short time, VHC has earned widespread respect and support from city, county and state officials and many members of the local community.

The grant from your Conservancy represents an important milestone for VHC. It will permit the organization to prepare for its first land acquisition and make possible future grants. I hope that you will look favorably upon VHC's application. I believe that their work is essential to protecting the natural environment and ensuring that Ventura remains one of California's most livable cities. Thank you for your support on this important project.

Sincerely,

Hannah-Beth Jackson
Hannah-Beth Jackson
Assemblymember, 35th District

cc: Mr. Sam Schuchat, Executive Director

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August 19, 2004

Mr. Paul Morabito, Chairman
State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 11th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Re: Support for Ventura Hillside Conservancy Planning Grant

Dear Chairman Morabito:

Since its founding just 18 months ago, the Ventura Hillside Conservancy has made remarkably rapid progress in building a locally based organization capable of achieving its objective of permanently preserving and restoring the hillsides surrounding the City of Ventura. It has built a strong membership, conducted highly successful local fundraising, formed strategic alliances, and developed high-level planning and technical skills amongst its officers and collaborators. The receipt of a planning grant from the Coastal Conservancy will provide the Hillside Conservancy with the tools and expertise necessary to accomplish their objective of preserving and restoring the coastal hillsides around the City of Ventura.

I am highly confident in the ability of the Ventura Hillside Conservancy to carry out the challenging tasks of planning, acquiring, and restoring the coastal hillside environment of our community. I am familiar with the individuals leading the organization and their abilities, and their accomplishments speak for themselves. The Hillside Conservancy enjoys tremendous local citizen support and high credibility with local agencies, officials, and landowners. I have every confidence that the Ventura Hillside Conservancy will provide another outstanding example of a highly successful locally based non-profit land conservancy. I respectfully encourage your award of a planning grant to catalyze their efforts to protect our coastal hills.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Steve Bennett".

Steve Bennett
Supervisor, First District

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VENTURA AUDUBON SOCIETY

P.O. Box 24198 Ventura, CA 93002 www.VenturaAudubon.org

KARA KEMALLEN

August 20, 2004



Mr. Paul Morabito, Chairman
State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 11th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Mr. Morabito,

The Ventura Chapter of the Audubon Society is writing in support of the grant submitted by the Ventura Hillside Conservancy (VHC) to the State Coastal Conservancy. We strongly endorse VHC's mission of preserving the hillsides, canyons and open space in the City of San Buenaventura and the surrounding region.

The vast stretches of chaparral and coastal sage scrub found in the Ventura hillsides provide habitat for a wide variety of wildlife and avian species. The riparian areas and oak woodlands also afford significant habitat. Birds such as raptors, kingbirds, orioles, finches, and hummingbirds are common in the area. Our chapter considers the Ventura hillsides an important resource for wildlife, and regularly conducts birding trips to Arroyo Verde Park, the one publicly accessible portion of the Ventura hillsides. In fact, Arroyo Verde Park is listed as a site on the Audubon Society's Central Coast Birding Trail.

Due to the importance of preserving the natural resources of the hillside region, the Audubon Society supports VHC's grant request for pre-acquisition costs related to acquiring open space in Ventura. The agency's proposed efforts to gather biological information about the area and develop an acquisition strategy and a stewardship plan will pave the way for the eventual preservation of this important community resource. The Ventura Audubon Society looks forward to assisting VHC by providing data that has been collected regarding avian species in the Ventura hillsides region. We hope that the State Coastal Conservancy can also partner with the community of San Buenaventura by providing funding for this important project.

Sincerely,

Neil Ziegler
President

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